

Conservation Innovation Grants & Awards

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Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist, Dr. Larry Butler recently announced the awarding of \$340,729 in grants to fund new technology under the Conservation Innovation Grants (GIG). The CIG is a component of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and provides funding for innovative technology that will address some of the states most pressing natural resource conservation needs.

Twenty-two proposals were received from state, local governments, non-governmental organizations and private individuals and were evaluated with the assistance of the State Technical Committee. "These grants will promote public-private partnerships and support the agency's agenda to provide innovative technology, management systems and market-based approaches into NRCS technical manuals or to the private sector," Butler stated.

Selected applicants will provide 50% of the total project from non-federal sources.

2005 NRCS Texas Conservation Innovation Grants Awards

Wes-Tex Resource Conservation & Development Area

- Evaluate sub-normal application rates of Tebuthiuron that effectively and economically provides suppression and control of sand shinnery oak which will improve habitat for the Lesser Prairie Chicken, other grassland birds and non-game species, decrease the amount of chemical released into the aquifer and benefit the grazing of livestock.
- Amount awarded \$30,500
- Point of Contact-Wayne Smith, President, 806-266-5067

Texas Cooperative Extension and Upper Colorado Soil & Water Conservation District

- Demonstrate the most effective method of releasing leaf beetles (*Diorhabda elongate*) to obtain permanent establishment of reproducing and increasing populations for control of salt cedar.
- Amount awarded-\$73,749 and \$11,800
- Points of Contact-Allan Knutson, 972-952-9222 and Turner Tatum, 325-573-6317 ext.3





Boilingstone Energy Incorporated

- Demonstrate the ability of an above ground permeable reactive barrier system for removing nutrient contaminants from rainfall runoff in the Bosque River Watershed.
- Amount Awarded-\$75,000
- Point of Contact-James McMahon, 210-736-9617

Texas A&M University-Kingsville

- Evaluate the effectiveness of the Coastal Prairie Conservation Initiative by investigating how grassland birds and the vegetation community of the Refugio-Goliad Prairie respond to restoration through prescribed fire treatments, a 3-year, systems-based brush management versus a single summer prescribed burn and two different grazing methodologies, continuous and single-herd pasture.
- Amount Awarded-\$74,680
- Point of Contact-Sandra Rexroat, 361-593-3344

Texas Tech University

- Demonstrate the use of gypsum to ameliorate soil sodicity in irrigated cotton production of the southern high plains and to reduce the exchangeable sodium and to reduce wind erosion potential.
- Amount Awarded-\$75,000
- Point of Contact-Wayne Hudnell, 806-742-4490

